

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

WILLIE S. LOCKHART,

Plaintiff,

V.

BECHTEL NATIONAL, INC., a  
Nevada corporation.

Defendant.

NO: 12-CV-5075-TOR

ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION  
FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

BEFORE THE COURT is the parties' Joint Motion for Protective Order

(ECF No. 27). Having reviewed the motion and the files herein, the Court is fully informed.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

**1. Documents.** The word “documents” includes all materials described

18 in Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1), interrogatory answers, responses to requests to admit,

19 documents produced by any party or non-party in this action whether pursuant to

<sup>20</sup> Fed. R. Civ. P. 34, subpoena, or by agreement, deposition transcripts, videotapes of

1 depositions, and exhibits, and any portions of any court papers which quote from  
2 or summarize any of the foregoing.

3       **2. Scope and Purpose of the Order.** The Protective Order shall govern  
4 the designation and handling of protected documents produced by any party or  
5 non-party in discovery in this litigation, whether by voluntary production of  
6 disclosure or in response to any formal discovery procedure, including designation  
7 and handling of nonpublic information of a confidential nature. The Protective  
8 Order does not affect any party's obligations under the Federal Rules of Civil  
9 Procedure to produce documents as required by the rules of discovery or an order  
10 of the Court. The purpose of the Protective Order is to facilitate the handling of  
11 nonpublic information of a confidential, proprietary, or sensitive nature.

12       **3. Standards for Protected Documents.** Any party or non-party who is  
13 required to produce documents or information in discovery in this litigation may  
14 designate produced material as protected. The designation "CONFIDENTIAL"  
15 shall be limited to information that any producing party, including any non-party,  
16 in good faith believes to contain such material or matter used by it in, or pertaining  
17 to, its business, which is not generally known and which the party normally would  
18 not reveal to third parties or would cause third parties to maintain in confidence,  
19 including trade secrets, unpublished financial data, technological developments,  
20 pricing or cost information, production or sales forecasts or strategy, commercially

1 sensitive information of a non-public nature, confidential employee and personnel  
2 information and documents, confidential healthcare information and documents,  
3 and/or other confidential and sensitive materials of a similar nature.

4 **4. Protected Documents.** Protected documents are those documents  
5 marked as "CONFIDENTIAL" and/or "CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS  
6 EYES ONLY" by the producing party or non-party. Protected documents will be  
7 covered by the Protective Order and will be used only for the purposes of this case,  
8 and will not be used by any party, party representative, or counsel for any purpose  
9 unrelated to this case.

10 **5. Designating Protected Documents.**

11 a. Marking Protected Documents. Protected documents shall be  
12 designated confidential by marking them "CONFIDENTIAL" in a  
13 size and location that makes the designation readily apparent.

14 b. Confidential Non-Party Employees' Personnel, Medical/Health and  
15 Disciplinary Information and Documents. Non-party current or  
16 former employees' personnel, medical/health and disciplinary  
17 information and documents produced by Defendant BNI will be  
18 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS' EYES  
19 ONLY," except that specific references to Willie S. Lockhart  
20 contained therein shall be designated as CONFIDENTIAL.

c. Reservation of Rights. The Parties reserve and do not waive the right to challenge any such designations under paragraph 11 below.

d. Designating Deposition Testimony. Any party or non-party wishing to designate deposition testimony or deposition exhibits as confidential may do so on the record during the deposition, or within 30 days after entry of this Protective Order, or within 15 days after receipt of the deposition transcript and exhibits, whichever is later, by providing written notice of the designation to the parties and any other affected person. The party making the designation shall be responsible for assuring that those portions of the deposition transcript and exhibits designated as confidential are appropriately identified as such by the reporter.

e. Subsequent Designation. A protected document produced or disclosed without a “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” designation may be subsequently designated as such by any party. In each such case, the designating person shall provide to all other parties written notice of that designation and a copy of the document marked in accord with paragraph (5)(a), (b). No person shall be liable for publicly disclosing a document marked “CONFIDENTIAL” or

1                   “CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” if that  
2 disclosure occurred prior to receipt of written notice pursuant to  
3 this paragraph.

4                   **6. Maintaining Designated Protected Documents.** Any protected  
5 document must be maintained in a manner reasonably calculated to preserve its  
6 confidentiality.

7                   **7. Disclosure of Protected Documents.**

8                   a. Except as set forth herein or by any subsequent court order, no  
9 protected documents shall be delivered, exhibited, or disclosed to  
10 any persons unless done in a manner in compliance with the  
11 Protective Order.

12                   b. Protected documents may be delivered, exhibited, or disclosed to  
13 the following persons subject to the limitations in the Protective  
14 Order:

15                   i. The parties’ counsel, including BNI’s outside attorneys  
16 and in-house counsel.

17                   ii. Secretaries, paralegal assistants, and other employees of  
18 such counsel who are actively engaged in assisting  
19 counsel in the preparation of these actions.

20                   iii. Employees and/or service providers of parties involved

solely in one or more aspect of organizing, filing, coding, copying, scanning, converting, storing or retrieving data and/or designing programs for handling data connected with these actions, and to employees of third party contractors performing one or more of these functions for one or more parties.

iv. The parties and their client representatives for purposes related to this litigation; provided, however, that employees' personnel and disciplinary information and documents designated as **CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY** shall not be exhibited, shown, or disclosed to Plaintiff Lockhart.

v. Counsel for the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and other appropriate officials of DOE who are involved in litigation review, together with the secretaries, paralegal assistants, and other employees of such counsel and officials.

vi. Persons noticed for depositions or designated as trial witnesses and their counsel to the extent deemed necessary by counsel for the witnesses' preparation for

testimony; provided, however, that employees' personnel and disciplinary information and documents designated as **CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY** shall not be exhibited, shown, or disclosed to Plaintiff Lockhart or to any current or former non-management employees of Defendant BNI; provided, however, that current or former non-management employees of Defendant BNI may be shown their own personnel and disciplinary information and documents during deposition or trial of this matter. Persons noticed for depositions or designated as witnesses shall be provided with a copy of the Protective Order and requested to execute Exhibit A thereto prior to receiving any documents subject to this Order.

vii. The court or court personnel involved in the court's handling of this litigation, and court reporters and videographers.

viii. Outside consultants and experts retained for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of this action.

ix. Persons retained or engaged for purposes of alternative

1 dispute resolution, including mediators and/or arbitrators  
2 and their staff to the extent reasonably necessary.

3 x. Employees of copying and similar outside services  
4 utilized with respect to this action.

5 xi. Any person identified as having authored or having  
6 previously received the protected document(s).

7 c. Before making disclosure of protected documents to an outside  
8 consultant or expert, the party must obtain an agreement in  
9 writing from the outside expert or consultant designating the  
10 documents or materials to be disclosed with particularity, and  
11 reciting that he or she has read a copy of this Protective Order and  
12 agrees to be bound by its provisions.

13 d. This Protective Order does not apply to information obtained by  
14 or made available to any such person by means other than the  
15 discovery provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

16 **8. Disclosures to Other Counsel.** Protected documents may be

17 disclosed to counsel who (1) file an appearance for any party in this action; and (2)  
18 are actively engaged in the preparation of this action, but only on the conditions  
19 that such counsel shall not use, directly or indirectly, any information from the  
20 confidential documents of another party or non-party in connection with any

1 commercial or legal activity not directly involved with the prosecution or defense  
2 of this action or otherwise violate the provisions herein unless compelled by  
3 subpoena or court order, provided that a protected document shall not be disclosed  
4 pursuant to a subpoena until the producing party of the protected document is  
5 afforded notice of the subpoena and ten (10) days within which to object to the  
6 subpoena. If an objection is made, the protected document shall not be disclosed  
7 unless the Court orders the disclosure.

8       **9. Producing Party's Use of Protected Documents.** Nothing in this  
9 Protective Order limits a producing party's use of its own documents or documents  
10 obtained through means other than discovery requests or subpoenas in this  
11 litigation. Such disclosures shall not affect any confidential designation made  
12 under the terms of this Protective Order.

13       **10. Filing of Protected Documents.** Nothing in this Order shall preclude  
14 any party from using documents designated "CONFIDENTIAL" or  
15 "CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY" during hearings, court  
16 proceedings, and/or motion practice if the party reasonably believes the material is  
17 necessary for the hearing, court proceeding, and/or motion practice. If a non-  
18 producing party wishes file a protected document without sealing the same, the  
19 parties shall meet and confer about whether such document(s) can be filed without  
20 the protection of filing them under seal. If the parties cannot resolve any dispute

1 over sealed documents within five (5) judicial days, the party wishing to file a  
2 protected document without sealing the same may move the Court for an order to  
3 remove the protected designation under paragraph 11 below.

4 Nothing in the preceding paragraph shall prevent either party from filing a  
5 document under seal.

6 **11. Reference to Protected Documents.** Protected documents may be  
7 referred to in interrogatory answers, motions, briefs, and may be used in  
8 depositions and marked as deposition exhibits in this action and at trial. However,  
9 no such document or testimony shall be used for any of these purposes unless it, or  
10 the portion of the court paper in which it is revealed, is appropriately marked  
11 CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY.

12 **12. Disputes as to Confidentiality Designation.**

13 a. Meet and Confer Requirement. If, at any time, a party disagrees  
14 with the designation of a protected document, the parties must  
15 first attempt to resolve the dispute informally in a face-to-face or  
16 telephonic conference initiated by the party disputing the  
17 designation. If the dispute is not resolved through the meet-and-  
18 confer process within a reasonable time, the party seeking  
19 protection may move for a protective order or the party disputing  
20 the designation may present the objection(s) to the court.

- b. Status Pending Resolution of Disputes. Any disputed document or other material must be treated as a protected document under the Protective Order until entry of a court order ruling otherwise.
- c. Rights of the Parties. The Protective Order is without prejudice to the right of any party to apply to the Court for any further protective order relating to any confidential information or for an order permitting disclosure of any confidential information beyond the terms of the Protective Order. Nothing in the Protective Order shall prevent any party or non-party from seeking modification of the Protective Order or from objecting to discovery that it believes to be otherwise improper.
- d. Documents for Trial. After the pretrial conference, the parties must meet and confer to (a) reach an agreement as to the confidentiality of information to be used at trial, and (b) designate documents as trial exhibits. If necessary, the parties or the court will also develop a method for maintaining the confidentiality of such information and documents at trial. At the producing party's request, any document previously designated confidential must be used at trial only in a clean or redacted copy without any such designation. The producing party has the burden of producing

1 such copies to the non-producing party.

2       **13. Return of Documents.** Within sixty (60) days of the termination of  
3 litigation between the parties, including final appellate action or the expiration of  
4 time to appeal or seek further review, a producing party may request the return or  
5 destruction of “Confidential” and/or “Attorneys Eyes Only” protected documents  
6 under the Stipulated Protective Order in this Lawsuit. It is Plaintiff’s position that  
7 the parties should have the ability to retain protected documents in a client file for  
8 six years, subject to the provisions of this protective order, so a complete record  
9 exists to support the legal advice and decision-making that led to the resolution of  
10 the case. Defendant believes that the party producing the protected documents  
11 shall be entitled to designate whether they should be returned or destroyed,  
12 including all hard copies and/or all electronic versions. The parties will work  
13 cooperatively to reach an agreement regarding the return, destruction or  
14 preservation of protected documents. If the parties cannot reach agreement  
15 regarding the return of protected documents, either may seek appropriate relief  
16 from the Court at that time.

17       **14. Commencement.** By signature of counsel below, the parties agree to  
18 abide by the terms of the Stipulated Protective Order as soon as this Order is  
19 entered.

1 The District Court Executive is hereby directed to enter this Order and  
2 provide copies to counsel.

3 **DATED** this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

4 *s/ Thomas O. Rice*

5 THOMAS O. RICE  
6 United States District Judge